THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Question Perhaps refers to the 12 level crossings falling in Chennai-Egmore-Tambaram section which are being converted into Road Over Bridges/Under Bridges with cost sharing by Tamilnadu Government as conveyed by them in Oct. 1998. Provision of Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges in replacement of these level crossings has been taken up as part of the project of Gauge Conversion of Chennai Beach-Tambaram-Chengalpattu section, cost of which is also being shared by the State Government of Tamilnadu & Railway. Adequate funds have been made available for the project.

Supply of Wagons as per Specification G-93

4380. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU :
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the wagon manufacturing companies supplying wagons to the Railways fulfil the provisions of Indian Railways specification G-93; and

(b) if not, the names of companies for which these specifications have been relaxed and reasons for relaxing the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. As per latest Report of RDSO, only M/s. Cimmco Ltd. and M/s. Southern Structurals fulfill the provisions of Indian Railway specification G-93 for all types of wagons including Tank wagons and M/s. HDC fulfill the provisions of G-93 for types other than tank wagons.

(b) All other wagon manufacturers including M/s. Burn Standard, M/s. Braithwaite, M/s. Jessops, M/s. Bharat Wagon, M/s. Modern Industries, M/s. Titagarh, M/s. BESCO, M/s. Texmaco etc. do not fulfill provisions of G-93 specification. Relaxation is being granted as strict insistence of compliance of G-93 specification would have debarred the above firms including several PSUs from getting orders. Moreover, total capacity of the firms complying with G-93 specification is not adequate to meet the requirement of Indian Railways.

Guideline for procuring high value items

4381. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE :
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have any specific guideline for procuring high value items only through two parts bids i.e. technical and price so that price bids are not opened before fulfilling technical specification ;

(b) if so, the value of items for which two part tendering is done; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps to avoid post tender negotiations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Two part bids system is followed in a few specific cases where it is considered that precise specifications are not possible to be formulated and where 2 part bid system is considered advantageous. It is not related to value of procurement. Instructions already exist that post tender negotiations are permissible only in exceptional cases.

Direct Train between Bangalore-Shimoga

4382. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is direct train facility between Bangalore-Shimoga;

(b) if not, whether Government would take steps to introduce direct train between Bangalore-Shimoga to meet the great demand; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to add two more compartments to the existing Bangalore—Shimoga train also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is proposed to introduce an overnight express train between Shimoga and Bangalore with effect from 01-7-2000 in lieu of 283/284 Bangalore—Shimoga Fast Passenger. This will provide an additional carrying capacity of 144 berths to Shimoga from Bangalore. Further, 227/228 Bangalore-Birur passenger will be extended to Shimoga to provide an additional train on this sector.

Compensation to passengers killed or injured in Train Accidents

†4383. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH :
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial aid, as compensation, is provided for those passengers who get killed or injured due to train accidents; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.